Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cyanine dye which is represented by

Formula 1 and which exhibits a major absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than

400 nm in a solution and has a molar absorption coefficient (ε) of at least 5 X 10⁴ at the

absorption maximum wavelength;

Formula 1:

wherein in Formula 1, Z^1 and Z^2 mean monocyclic, or condensed <u>carbocyclic or</u> heterocyclic aromatic rings which are the same or different from each other, and R^1 to R^6 independently denote aliphatic hydrocarbon groups which optionally bear a substituent.

2. (Previously Presented) The cyanine dye according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

Chemical Formula 1:

Chemical Formula 2:

Chemical Formula 3:

Chemical Formula 4:

Chemical Formula 5:

Chemical Formula 6:

Chemical Formula 7:

Chemical Formula 8:

Chemical Formula 9:

Chemical Formula 10:

Chemical Formula 11:

Chemical Formula 12:

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and

Chemical Formula 13:

3. (Previously Presented) The cyanine dye according to claim 1 wherein the absorption maximum is about 430 to 550 nm.